



# The Ohio Legislative Black Caucus

*Established 1967*

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April 28, 1999

Mr. William Kennard, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

CC DKT NO. 98-141

Dear Chairman Kennard:

As members of the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus, approval of the SBC/Ameritech merger is vital to the urban constituency that we represent in the Ohio General Assembly. Your strong support of this merger is clearly essential for the merger to happen.

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) approved a stipulated settlement agreement developed by Ameritech, the Ohio Consumers' Council, PUCO staff, selected consumer groups, and competitors for this merger that contains good news for Ohioans. Specifically:

- Local phone rates will be frozen until 2002
- Ameritech workforce levels remain at their current levels
- Funding for a Consumer Education Fund, a Community Technology Fund, and the Community Computer Center Program
- Maintain charitable and philanthropic contributions in Ohio
- Increased credits to customers if Ameritech-Ohio fails to meet service commitments on appointments it makes with customers
- The steepest discounts for resold local residential service in the nation and the first ever discounted prices for unbundled residential local loops, intended to foster facilities based competition
- Ameritech agreed to begin offering competitive local exchange service in four Ohio markets it currently does not serve—Cincinnati, Lebanon/Mason, Hudson/Twinsburg, and Delaware—further increasing local competition
- Mandatory credits to Ohio consumers if Ameritech Ohio fails to meet strict service quality requirements for the three years following the merger
- Mandatory payments to customers and competitors if competitive targets are not met
- Mandatory payments to competitors if certain Operations Support Systems (OSS) performance measurements and standards are not implemented.

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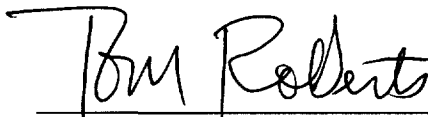
On top of the Ohio agreement, the SBC/Ameritech merger, when approved, would provide the first strong minority ownership of a telecommunications company through the sale of Ameritech wireless operations in Chicago and St. Louis to GTE and a minority owned company.

Your strong support of urban issues is well known. We are writing to urge your support of the SBC/Ameritech merger to continue that worthy legacy.

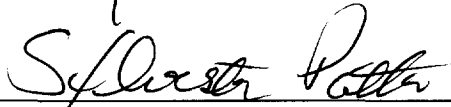
Sincerely,



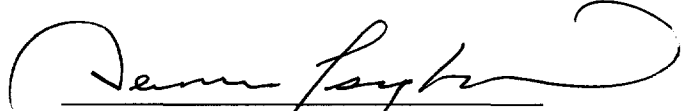
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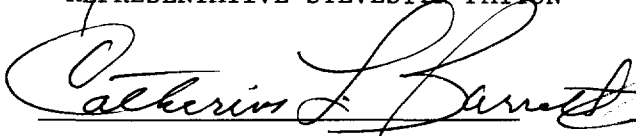
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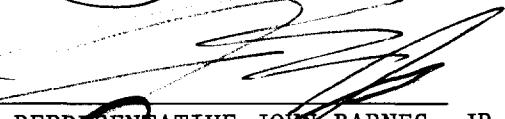
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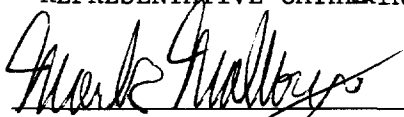
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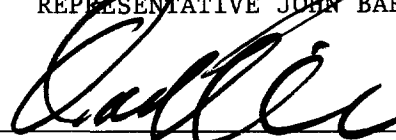
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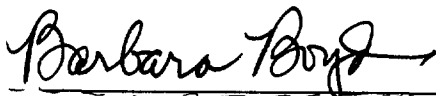
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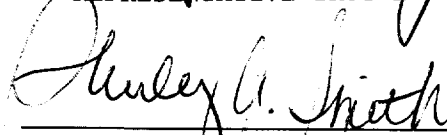
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